

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

Claims 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 20, 21 and 23-32 are pending in this application. In the March 27, 2006 office action, the Examiner:

A. Rejected claims 2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 20, 21 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,697,362 to Akella et al. (hereinafter "Akella");

B. Rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Akella in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,684,752 to Mills et al. (hereinafter "Mills");

C. Appears to have deemed claims 7, 23, 24 and 28 allowable if rewritten in independent format; and

E. Allowed claims 29-32.

In this response, independent claims 2, 20 and 25 have been amended to place those claims in a condition for allowance. Claim 24 has been amended to depend from claim 20, and claims 6, 7, 23 and 26-28 have been canceled, without prejudice. New claims 33-38 have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims include subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner. Entry of this amendment and allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

II. Claim 2 is Allowable

Claim 2 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 7. Claim 7 was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. (See March 27, 2006 office action at p.1 and September 19, 2005 office action at p.6). Because claim 2 constitutes claim 7 rewritten in

independent format, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is now in a condition for allowance.

III. Claims 4, 5, 9 and 10

Claims 4, 5, 9 and 10 depend from and incorporate all of the limitations of claim 2. Accordingly, for at least the same reasons as those set forth above in connection with claim 2, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4, 5, 9 and 10 are in a condition for allowance.

IV. Claims 20 and 21 are Allowable

Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 23. Claim 23 was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. (See March 27, 2006 office action at p.1 and September 19, 2005 office action at p.6). Because claim 20 as amended constitutes claim 23 rewritten in independent format, it is respectfully submitted that claim 20 is now in a condition for allowance.

Claim 21 depends from claim 20 and is allowable for at least the same reasons.

VI. Claim 25 is Allowable

Claim 25 has been amended to incorporate, in substance, all of the limitations of claim 28. Claim 28 was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. (See March 27, 2006 office action at p.1 and September 19, 2005 office action at p.6). Because claim 25 as amended constitutes claim 28 rewritten in independent format, it is respectfully submitted that claim 25 is now in a condition for allowance.

VII. New Claims 33-38

New claims 33-38 all depend from and incorporate all of the limitations of one of claims 2, 20 and 25. Moreover, the limitations of claims 33-38 have all been previously presented in other dependent claims.

Because new claims 33-38 depend from allowable claims, and do not constitute new matter, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 33-38 are in a condition for allowance.

VIII. Conclusion

The claims as amended all include subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and favorable consideration of the application. A prompt and favorable action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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